

CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS



VETERANS UPDATE



Dear Friend:

America owes its freedom to the men and women who have fought to keep our nation free. Unfortunately, our government has not always fulfilled its duty to provide veterans with the benefits and services they have earned and deserve.

I believe keeping our nation's promises to veterans is a moral issue. That's why I have been working to ensure that important veterans' benefits are protected, and I want to take this opportunity to update you on recent legislative activity surrounding veterans' benefits.

Sincerely,

Hilda L. Solis

HILDA L. SOLIS

Member of Congress

Congresswoman Solis discusses H.R. 302, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, with veterans. The bill would restore the benefits that Filipino veterans of World War II were promised.



**"On the battlefields of war, our soldiers pledge to leave no one behind.
For all veterans, this must out pledge: when soldiers come home, we leave no veteran behind."** *Hilda L Solis*

ADDRESSING THE SHORTFALL IN VETERANS' HEALTH BENEFITS

Despite repeated assurances by the Bush Administration that veterans' health care would be fully funded, in July the VA announced a health care shortfall of \$1.27 billion for this year and \$1.7 billion for next year. Congresswoman Solis supports the Assured Funding for Veterans' Health Care Act (H.R. 515) which would require full funding for veterans' health benefits.

STANDING UP FOR VETERANS RETURNING FROM IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

A new generation of veterans is returning home after proudly serving under the Stars and Stripes. They've earned our respect and our gratitude, and we owe it to them to ensure that they have the tools they need to re-enter the workplace, take care of their families, and enjoy the freedom and opportunity their service made possible. Congresswoman Solis supports H.R. 2131, the G.I. Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, to ensure that our newest veterans receive the education, job training, and health care benefits they've earned.



Congresswoman Solis presents military medals to Rodolfo Q. Gomez (U.S. Army) of South El Monte.



Congresswoman Solis, Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, leads a procession at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

MAKING HIGHER EDUCATION AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

Millions of veterans have attended college or received advanced training through the G.I. Bill. But as America's economy grows, so too must our commitment to education and job training. In order to ensure that today's veterans can compete in tomorrow's economy, Congresswoman Solis will continue to push for full funding for flexible veterans' education programs to help pay tuition, fees and living expenses so that veterans can continue or further their education.

ENSURING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS

Seventeen percent of the Army's soldiers who served in Iraq show signs of major depression, generalized anxiety, or post traumatic stress disorder. Congresswoman Solis introduced legislation (H.R. 5007) which would ensure access to bilingual counseling for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or bereavement for military personnel and family members who have limited English language skills.

POST OFFICE TO BE NAMED FOR CAPT. LILLIAN K. KEIL

Legislation introduced by Congresswoman Solis to name a post office in Covina in honor of Captain Lillian K. Keil, the most decorated female veteran in U.S. military history, was signed into law on March 20, 2006 (Public Law 109-199). Captain Keil (1917-2005), known as an "Airborne Florence Nightingale," was a flight nurse for the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and the Korean War. A ceremony will be held in September at the post office.



Congresswoman Solis discusses the G.I. Bill of Rights for the 21st Century at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center with a disabled U.S. servicemember who recently returned from Iraq.



WE REMEMBER OUR FALLEN LOCAL HEROES

Our community has suffered the loss of eleven brave servicemen during the war in Iraq. These men, our fallen soldiers, are our local heroes.

- ★ Corporal Carlos Arellano
U.S. Marine Corps
- ★ Private First Class Jose Casanova Jr.
U.S. Army
- ★ Lance Corporal Manuel Ceniceros
U.S. Marine Corps
- ★ Lance Corporal Francisco Martinez Flores
U.S. Marine Corps
- ★ Sergeant First Class Kelly M. Bolor
U.S. Army
- ★ Lance Corporal Benjamin Gonzalez
U.S. Marine Corps
- ★ Corporal Jorge Gonzalez
U.S. Marine Corps
- ★ Sergeant Atanacio Haro-Marin
U.S. Army
- ★ Specialist Leroy Harris-Kelly III
U.S. Army
- ★ Corporal Stephen Johnson
U.S. Marine Corps
- ★ Corporal Rudy Salas
U.S. Marine Corps

Congresswoman Solis discusses veterans' benefits with constituents at the 2005 Veterans Care Day event in Irwindale.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE MY E-NEWSLETTER AT WWW.HOUSE.GOV/SOLIS!

SAVE THE DATE!

THIRD ANNUAL VETERANS CARE DAY EVENT

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2006
10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD
LOS ANGELES READINESS CENTER
1351 WEST SIERRA MADRE AVENUE, AZUSA, CA 91702**

Refreshments will be provided. All families are welcome.

**Includes Information Booths,
Free Health Exams, and more!**

**For more information call
Congresswoman Solis'
office at (626) 448-1271.**

*Congresswoman Solis presents military
medals to Richard N. Goodenow (U.S.
Marine Corps) of Baldwin Park during
the 2005 Veterans Care Day event.*



MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU

- ★ SOCIAL SECURITY
- ★ VETERANS AFFAIRS
 - ★ MEDICARE
- ★ IMMIGRATION &
NATURALIZATION
- ★ MILITARY RECORDS
- ★ PASSPORTS
- ★ MILITARY ACADEMY
NOMINATIONS
- ★ SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION
- ★ INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
- ★ PROCURING
AMERICAN FLAGS

One of my most important duties is to assist constituents as they deal with federal agencies. My staff and I are ready to help you cut through "red tape" and secure the services and benefits our taxes pay for.

My Offices Are Here To Help

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